The fire incident at Mumbai High on 27th July 2005 caused extensive damage to life and property. ONGC's Platform, MHN (Mumbai High North) in the Mumbai High field caught fire and was completely destroyed and Multi Support Vessel (MSV) Samudra Suraksha sank. 11 persons died. 11 more persons went missing and are presumed to be dead.

The average oil production from Mumbai High field before the accident was 2,61,000 BOPD and gas sales Ex-Uran was approximately, 10.5 MMSCMD. Following the accident, oil production levels came down to approximately, 1,42,000 BOPD and gas sales Ex-Uran to 6.1 MMSCMD, much of which has since been restored.

(b) Quantification of the loss/damage arising out of the MHN fire accident is still being done by ONGC. Based on preliminary estimates, the loss estimated by surveyors/average adjustors pursuant to the accident is about US$375,100,000.

(c) Out of claim of US$ 196,624,504, lodged so far, ONGC has received an amount of US$ 175,080,589 from United India Insurance Company Ltd. towards the insured value of the MHN platform on 15.09.2005.

(d) All installations of ONGC are certified by independent third parties for Quality, Occupational Health & Safety and Environment (QHSE) management system. The following systems and practices are already in place:

- Enhanced co-ordination.
- Mandatory Sea Survival and Basic Fire Fighting for all offshore crew both of ONGC and those working under contractors.
- Modification of Management of change system.
- An independent enquiry committee has been set up to go into the causes of accident and suggest measures for the future.

ONGC's bid for Petro-Kazakhstan

679. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ONGC Videsh-Mittal bid for Petro-Kazakhstan has been rejected in favour of China's National Petroleum Corporation

(CNPC) even though the ONGC Videsh-Mittal combine bid was higher than the CNPC;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any action in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) As per the procedure laid down by PetroKazakhstan for sale of its shares, any bidder has the right to offer higher value for the stake than the highest bid received by them. Making use of this provision, the China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC) made a superior offer to the seller and won the bid.

Although under the same provision, ONGC-Mittal Joint Venture had the right to further submit a superior bid, considering the various techno-economic and commercial aspects of the deal, they decided not to do so.

(d) Does not arise in view of (a) to (c) above.

Allotment of petrol pumps in Andhra Pradesh

680. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of petrol pumps allotted by public sector oil companies in Andhra Pradesh during the last two years;

(b) the number of cases in which No Objection Certificates for setting up of petrol pumps were sought from the district collectors in Andhra Pradesh;

(c) the details of criteria used for allowing the setting up of petrol pumps;

(d) whether any complaint has been received about violations of these criteria in Andhra Pradesh during the last one year; and

(e) if so, the detail thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) & (b) During the last two years, i.e. 2003-04 and 2004-05, the public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs), *viz.* Indian